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COUNTRY Poland

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1. Officially, the organization of religious pilgrimages is not prohibited, but the state authorities do not view them favorably, and obstruct them as much as possible.
2. According to existing regulations, the parish priest organizing the pilgrimage is obliged to report the fact to the Department of Religion of the District National Council, giving the date of the pilgrimage, and submit a list of the participants with their names and addresses and details of their employment.
3. The task of the Religious Department is to arrange for reservations with the railway authorities and to obtain reductions in fares for the participants in the pilgrimage. Since the Religious Department is controlled by the UB (Security Police), it fails to arrange for the reservation of seats and reduction of fares, blaming the railway authorities for being uncooperative. It also exposes the pilgrims to all kinds of annoyances, so that the parish priest never returns to the Religious Department for such a thing again.
4. In order to avoid trouble and unpleasantness for the pilgrims, the priest who intends to conduct a pilgrimage gives notice during a sermon that on such and such a day he will not hold services because he will be leaving on such and such a train for Czestochowa. This is sufficient indication for those who are willing to participate that there will be a pilgrimage. The pilgrims make individual arrangements for the journey and only when they have arrived at their destination do they form a procession and the priest puts on his vestments.
5. The number of progressive clergy is estimated at no more than five percent of the whole of the Polish clergy. These clergy, favored by the authorities, are used

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for the purpose of spreading propaganda, but this is not very effective since churches served by these priests are always empty. This can be seen especially in country parishes, where people sometimes go several miles to the neighboring parish in order to avoid going to the church served by the progressive priest.

6. Since the prohibition of religious teaching in schools, priests conduct religious teachings in churches after school hours. It is estimated that the number of children attending these classes is at least 90 percent, although the classes are voluntary and take place during free hours.

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